

Message Text

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ORIGIN FSI-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PER-03 /019 R

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M/FSI/SLS:RGOODISON

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

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R 072154Z DEC 76

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 297618

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP

SUBJECT: RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEST RESULTS: MILES, RICHARD M.

REF: MOSCOW 18043

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL, FSI HAS EXTENSIVELY REVIEWED
MILES RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEST TAPE. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS
ON THE MAJOR SKILL AREAS WHICH SERVE AS THE BASIS ON
WHICH PERFORMANCE IS EVALUATED:

A. SPEAKING

PRONUNCIATION: LARGELY ENGLISH SOUNDS, STRESS
AND INTONATION PATTERNS.

GRAMMAR: GENERALLY CONTROLS MAJOR GRAMMATICAL
FEATURES BUT MAKES FREQUENT ERRORS CHARACTERISTIC OF
STUDENTS AT THE INTERMEDIATE LEVEL AT FSI.

FLUENCY: GENERALLY GOOD BUT WITH OCCASIONAL
PAUSES.

COMPREHENSION: GOOD. UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING
THAT WAS SAID.

VOCABULARY AND USAGE: CONSTANT DIRECT TRANSLA-
TION FROM ENGLISH, RESULTING IN CONFUSION TO LISTENER.

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POOR WORD CHOICE INDICATES LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH RANGE

OF MEANING OF RUSSIAN WORDS.

CONCLUSION: COMPREHENSION AND FLUENCY WERE AT THE S-3 LEVEL. HOWEVER, PROBLEMS WITH VOCABULARY USAGE AND PRONUNCIATION, BOTH AREAS IN WHICH THE OFFICER IS PLAGUED WITH A HEAVY RELIANCE ON ENGLISH TO THE POINT WHERE THERE IS LITTLE "RUSSIAN" ABOUT HIS SPEECH, WERE CLEARLY BELOW THE S-3 LEVEL, RESULTING IN AN OVERALL RATING OF S-2 . IN ORDER FOR MR. MILES TO PROGRESS BEYOND HIS CURRENT PROFICIENCY, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT HE MAKE EFFORTS TO "THINK" IN RUSSIAN, WITHOUT RESORTING TO ENGLISH TRANSLATION AND PRONUNCIATION.

B. READING

THE OFFICER WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSLATE TWO NEWSPAPER SELECTIONS IN THE R-3/3 RANGE OF DIFFICULTY. HIS TRANSLATIONS WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY ACCURATE REFLECTIONS OF THE RUSSIAN TEXT TO WARRANT A RATING BEYOND R-3.

2. FSI UNDERSTANDS MILES' CONCERN ABOUT RATING AFTER ONE YEAR TRAINING AT GARMISCH. RESULTS OF FSI TEST AND SCORES ON TESTS AT GARMISCH INDICATE GOOD PROGRESS IN COMPREHENSION. FSI IS CONFIDENT THAT, GIVEN SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO MODEL HIS SPEECH AFTER THE RUSSIAN HE HEARS, MR. MILES SHOULD BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE DEFICIENCIES NOTED ABOVE. HE SHOULD, OF COURSE, AVAIL HIMSELF OF THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO BE TESTED, EITHER ON HOME LEAVE, OR IN THE EVENT THAT SOMEONE FROM FSI VISITS MOSCOW. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE297618
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JBRATLIFF:TRG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760453-0785
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761265/aaaacdws.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN FSI
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 18043
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEST RESULTS: MILES, RICHARD M.
TAGS: AFSP, US, UR, (MILES, RICHARD M)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006